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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/533,554	03/22/2000	Yoshio Sato	OPS CASE 489	8275

7590 11/25/2002

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EXAMINER
PEREZ, GUILLERMO
ART UNIT

2834

DATE MAILED: 11/25/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/533,554	SATO, YOSHIO
	Examiner Guillermo Perez	Art Unit 2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If the reply is filed within the specified period, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended time period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.70(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 September 2002.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,3-5,12-15 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 1,12-15 and 20 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 3-5 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolfbauer, III (U. S. Pat. 5,099,161) in view of O. L. Lewis (U. S. Pat. 2,030,260)

Wolfbauer, III discloses a driving unit of a welding equipment provided with a force application shaft (32) that is driven by a motor (50), comprising:

a screw shaft (40) coaxially fixed with a rotary shaft (60) of the motor (50);
a nut (44) fixed with the force application shaft (32) and threadably engaged with a screw of the screw shaft (40);

a rotary force output from the rotary shaft (60) of the motor (50) is converted into a reciprocating motion of the force application shaft (32) which in turn applies a force to the welding equipment; and

wherein the screw shaft (40) is integrally provided on the rotary shaft (60) of the motor by providing a closed bore hole at an output side of the rotary shaft (60) of the motor (50), and inserting one end of the screw shaft (40) into the closed bore hole.

Wolfbauer, III discloses that the screw shaft (40) is integrally provided on the rotary shaft (60) of the motor (50) by rendering the rotary shaft (60) of the motor (50)

hollow to form a hollow portion and having the screw shaft (40) penetrate the hollow portion to fix the screw shaft (40) to the hollow portion. Wolfbauer, III discloses a stabilizing mechanism (figure 3) engaging the force application shaft (32) to prevent rotation thereof. Wolfbauer, III discloses that an outer diameter of the nut (44) is the same as or smaller than an outer diameter of the force application shaft (32).

O. L. Lewis disclose that the screw shaft (32) is integrally provided on the rotary shaft (20) by fixing the screw shaft (32) to the rotary shaft (20) of the motor utilizing a friction force (page 2, lines 9-16). The invention of O. L. Lewis has the purpose of simplifying the construction and reducing the number of components in the machine.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to modify the driving unit of Wolfbauer, III and provide it with the stabilizing mechanism, nut configuration, and the screw shaft-motor shaft configuration disclosed by O. L. Lewis for the purpose of simplifying the construction and reducing the number of components in the machine.

Referring to all the claims, no patentable weight has been given to the method of manufacturing limitations (i. e. "boring") since "even though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985)

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 12-15 and 20 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Guillermo Perez whose telephone number is (703) 306-5443. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on (703) 308 1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305 3432 for regular communications and (703) 305 3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 0956.



Guillermo Perez
November 21, 2002